

Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Edward Gaffney, Chairman
Members, Health Policy Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

FROM: Sean Gehle, Vice President, Advocacy
Felicia Wasson, Director of Public Policy

RE: **HB 5493- Nurse Compact Licensure Bill**

DATE: February 7, 2006

On behalf of Ascension Health-Michigan hospitals and systems including, Borgess Health Alliance, Genesys Health System, St. John Health, St. Mary's of Michigan and St. Joseph Health System, thank you for the opportunity to support HB 5493, pending before this committee.

As an integral part of the private healthcare safety net, we are committed to the health and safety of our patients and our workforce. Health care providers continue to struggle with the current nursing shortage and we welcome initiatives, such as the Nurse Compact that will assist us in attracting talented and committed professionals. Our highly trained nursing staff is key to our mission of delivering high quality care to all we serve.

We believe HB 5493 would assist our hospitals in attracting nursing professionals to come to Michigan and provide care to our citizens in need. We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- This legislation would assist communities in need during times of disaster as witnessed with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- This legislation would allow nurses in neighboring states to obtain employment in a Michigan health care facility.
- We believe this legislation would also contribute greatly to our state's pursuit of healthcare technology with increased opportunities in e-health.
- The Nursys system will allow us to communicate with other compact states to gather current information on nurses.

It is for these reasons that we support the passage of HB 5493. We thank you for considering our views. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the Ascension Health-Michigan Advocacy office at (517) 482-1422.